

Emergency Family Relief Act of 2020

As the novel coronavirus spreads across the country, families face economic hardship, personal uncertainty, and impossible stresses in their daily lives. Congress must act to address their anxieties, and it must do so swiftly.

Yesterday the House finalized legislation promising workers at some mid-sized firms paid family leave, but families remain uncertain whether and how such a complex program would benefit them. Would they qualify, and how would they know? When might they see any benefit? Scariest of all, would such a program offer them any support if employers became insolvent?

These families don't need uncertainties in a moment like this. They need guaranteed, accessible, and rapid relief. The Emergency Family Relief Act will provide them just that.

The *Emergency Family Relief Act* will:

- Provide families experiencing school closures or financial hardship a fully refundable monthly benefit lasting through the coronavirus emergency to make it through this crisis unscathed. The benefit matches the IRS's monthly standards for household expenses:
 - \$1,446 for a family of three
 - \$1,786 for a family of four
 - \$2,206 for a family of five
- Guarantee rapid applications and benefit delivery every month during this emergency with existing payment and verification infrastructure run by Treasury
- Target those most in need with a benefit generous enough to cover real costs

Who qualifies?

All married parents of underage children making below \$100,000 receive the full benefit for periods of economic distress or school closure due to coronavirus. Single parents receive the full benefit up to \$50,000 in income. It reduces by \$50 per \$1000 in income above these thresholds.

Do I also get paid leave?

The House-passed coronavirus response legislation offers a federally financed paid leave benefit for workers. If both policies were implemented, families who receive one benefit would remain eligible for the other.

How will I apply and receive the benefit?

Through the tax collection infrastructure, the Treasury Department has data ready on all tax filers and systems in place to provide rapid delivery of benefits like this one. Applicants will be able to use their 2018 tax data to apply seamlessly. Treasury will also provide a process to allow new filers an opportunity to demonstrate eligibility.